Södertälje 13 dec 1991

Dear Harold,

Hopefully both you and your wife are in good shape. Christmas is here once again and Oliver Stone's movie will have its first-night showing by the time you get this card. A few weeks ago I heard a psychologist on CNN talk about "mythical reality" in connection with Stone's film. He said that to the average American (the man in the street) the "mythical reality" created by Hollywood is more real than the "real reality". Historical truth will soon be forgotten but the myths live on in mens minds. The "Wild West" is a good example. Nobody knows what really happened, but everybody knows all about the tall tales of Buffalo Bill and all the others. I was baffled a few years ago when I learned that the film-sequence showing the planting of the American flag on Iwojima in World War II was staged. It never took place in real life! It was a myth created by a film-director like Stone. Don't these "brave" actors who raised the flag on Iwojima even have a statue of their own over there?

Has there ever been a sharp borderline between fact and fiction in US history? Do people who have been spreading the Warren commission's official myth about the lone deranged assassin really have any right to critizze the countermyth ~~he~~ stone has created in his movie? Why are these people worried about the truth only when the official myth is challenged? I've read the first few chapters of Garrison's book. He doesn't seem to give much credit to anyone else but himself. He immediately saw all the flaws in the Warren Commission investigation just by eyeing through the 26 volumes. As far as I have been able to see he only mentions you once in the entire book. But didn't he get quite extensive help from you? Weren't you in fact called down to New Orleans to try to save his investigation when it was sinking rapidly? If you have the strenght maybe you could write about a few of the worst misrepresentations in his book. It would be interesting to know.

Although it is Christmas-time, it is saddening to realize that the need for grown men to believe in myths is just as great as for children to believe in Santa Claus.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Y...

P.S. I forgot to mention that I sent $100 (together with my brother and a friend) to the AARC. Mainly because you once told me you were fond of Bud Fensterwald. Hopefully the money went to a good cause.